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Letter dated 18 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 October 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 October 2000 (A/55/454-S/2000/959) from the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations addressed to you, which contains allegations of violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia.

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called airspace and flight information region violations were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 17 August 2000 (A/54/963-S/2000/813, annex). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations derive from the deceitful and unacceptable pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the entire island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This untenable position of the Greek Cypriot side clearly runs counter to the realities on the island and as such make it exceedingly difficult to achieve tangible progress in preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations.

While pretending to be interested in finding a negotiated settlement to the Cyprus question, the Greek Cypriot side is continuing with its militarization policy, in collaboration with Greece, within the framework of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine. The Turkish Cypriot side has consistently drawn the attention of all concerned to the dangers of such a policy. On the other hand, the Greek Cypriot side has continued unabatedly with a steady military build-up in South Cyprus. Heavy weaponry, such as the TOR-M1 and exocet missiles and other military equipment acquired by the Greek Cypriot administration, were displayed during the military parade held on 1 October 2000 in South Cyprus. Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are planning to carry out joint military manoeuvres code-named "Nikiforos" commencing on 18 October 2000.

The continuing negative and hostile attitude shown by the Greek Cypriot administration towards the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus diminishes the chances of an early settlement in Cyprus. That the Greek Cypriot party lacks the necessary political will to work constructively towards a comprehensive settlement is evidenced by its negative reaction to your opening statement of 12 September 2000 at the beginning of the fourth round of proximity talks held in New York. The rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of basic principles such as the equal political status of the two parties and the objective of bringing about a comprehensive settlement enshrining a new partnership, as underlined in your above statement, shows beyond any doubt that the Greek Cypriot side is far from the notion of establishing such a partnership on the basis of sovereign equality.

While strongly protesting the policy of escalation pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration as well as its campaign of misinformation against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey, I would like to express the hope that the international community would urge the Greek Cypriot administration to come to terms with the reality that there are two States in Cyprus and to work towards

attaining a new partnership by building bridges of trust and cooperation between them.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus